

CLEAR Act Chemical Level Enforcement and Remediation Act

PFAS Legislation (Per-and poly-fluoroalkyl Substances)

For more information

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P FAS are rapidly emerging contaminant and has been found in drinking water and groundwater in Wisconsin. Governor Evers proclaimed 2019 the Year of Clean Drinking Water. Action is needed to ensure it is safe for people to drink the water in their homes.

What is PFAS?

- PFAS, per-and poly-fluoroalkyl substances, refer to a family of similar substances found in common household products such as stain and water repellent fabrics, nonstick products, polishes, waxes, paints, cleaning products, and fire-fighting foams.
- PFAS chemicals are man-made. They do not break down naturally and can accumulate over time in the environment and the body.

Why is exposure to PFAS a concern?

- People are exposed to PFAS chemicals in a variety of ways – through eating food grown in contaminated soils, drinking polluted water or breathing small particles in the air.
- Although the full health implications of all the chemicals are not yet known, current impacts include low birth weight, increased cholesterol, immune system impacts, cancer and thyroid hormone disruption.

What does the bill do?

- This bill requires the Department of Natural Resources to establish, by rule, acceptable levels and standards, monitoring

Legislative Action

LRB 2297/2, The CLEAR Act, is circulating for co-sponsorship through Friday, June 7th

The CLEAR Act is authored by Sen. Mark Miller (D-Monona), Sen. Dave Hansen (D-Green Bay), Rep. Chris Taylor (D-Madison), Rep. Melissa Sargent (D-Madison) and Rep. Staush Gruszynski (D-Green Bay)

requirements and response actions for PFAS chemicals that are determined to be harmful to human health.

- The DNR will establish standards for drinking water, groundwater, surface water, air, solid waste, beds of navigable waters and soil and sediment.
- The bill requires an interim standard based on recommendations from the Department of Health Services for, at a minimum, PFOS, PFOA, PFHxS, PFNA, PFBS and PFHpA.

Resources

United States Environmental Protection Agency

- <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/basic-information-pfas>

National Caucus of Environmental Legislators

- <https://ncel.net/toxic-chemicals/>

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

- <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Contaminants/PFAS.html>